

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A secondary battery comprising:
 - a positive electrode;
 - a negative electrode; and
 - an electrolyte[[.]];
 - wherein the positive electrode includes a positive electrode mixture layer capable of occluding and releasing light metal;
 - wherein the negative electrode includes a negative electrode mixture layer capable of occluding and releasing light metal;
 - wherein a charge capacity of the negative electrode is expressed by a sum of a first capacity component by occluding and releasing light metal and a second capacity component by precipitating and dissolving light metal on said negative electrode at charging voltages below overcharging;
 - wherein a ratio (A/B) of a thickness A of the positive electrode mixture layer and a thickness B of the negative electrode mixture layer is 1.186 or more;
 - wherein each of the thickness A of the positive electrode mixture layer and the thickness B of the negative electrode mixture layer lies within a range of 80 μm to 250 μm , both inclusive;
 - wherein the negative electrode mixture layer contains a carbonaceous material;
 - wherein a charge capacity of the positive electrode is larger than the charge capacity of the negative electrode; and
 - wherein, when a voltage of the battery is lower than an overcharge voltage of the battery during charging of the battery, the light metal precipitates on a surface of the negative electrode after the charge capacity of the negative electrode has been exceeded; and
 - wherein the electrolyte contains a main nonaqueous solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, diethyl carbonate, methyl ethyl carbonate, and any mixture thereof.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the negative electrode mixture layer contains graphite.

5. (Original) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the light metal includes lithium.

6. (Original) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrolyte contains LiPF₆.

7. (Currently Amended) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrolyte contains an nonaqueous solvent and electrolytic salt, where the concentration of the electrolytic salt in the nonaqueous solvent is 2.0 mol/kg or less.

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A secondary battery comprising:

a positive electrode;
a negative electrode; and
an electrolyte[[.]] ;

wherein the positive electrode includes a positive electrode mixture layer capable of occluding and releasing light metal,

wherein the negative electrode includes a negative electrode mixture layer capable of occluding and releasing light metal,

wherein a charge capacity of the negative electrode causes lithium to precipitate on the negative electrode before charging of the secondary battery is completed,

wherein a ratio (A/B) of a thickness A of the positive electrode mixture layer and a thickness B of the negative electrode mixture layer is 1.186 or more;

wherein each of the thickness A of the positive electrode mixture layer and the thickness B of the negative electrode mixture layer lies within a range of 80 μm to 250 μm , both inclusive;

wherein the negative electrode mixture layer contains a carbonaceous material; and

wherein a charge capacity of the positive electrode is larger than the charge capacity of the negative electrode; and

wherein the electrolyte contains a main nonaqueous solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, diethyl carbonate, methyl ethyl carbonate, and any mixture thereof.

14. (Currently Amended) A secondary battery comprising:

a positive electrode;
a negative electrode; and
an electrolyte[[]];

wherein the positive electrode includes a positive electrode mixture layer capable of occluding and releasing light metal, wherein the negative electrode includes a negative electrode mixture layer capable of occluding and releasing light metal, wherein a charge capacity of the negative electrode causes lithium to precipitate on the negative electrode when an open circuit voltage of the battery is lower than an overcharge voltage, wherein a ratio (A/B) of a thickness A of the positive electrode mixture layer and a thickness B of the negative electrode mixture layer is 1.186 or more;

wherein each of the thickness A of the positive electrode mixture layer and the thickness B of the negative electrode mixture layer lies within the range of 80 μm to 250 μm , both inclusive;

wherein the negative electrode mixture layer contains a carbonaceous material; and

wherein a charge capacity of the positive electrode is larger than the charge capacity of the negative electrode; and

wherein the electrolyte contains a main nonaqueous solvent selected from the group consisting of ethylene carbonate, propylene carbonate, diethyl carbonate, methyl ethyl carbonate, and any mixture thereof.

15. (Previously presented) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 4, wherein the negative electrode mixture layer includes natural graphite.

16. (Previously presented) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 13, wherein the carbonaceous material includes natural graphite.

17. (Previously presented) A secondary battery as claimed in claim 14, wherein the carbonaceous material includes natural graphite.